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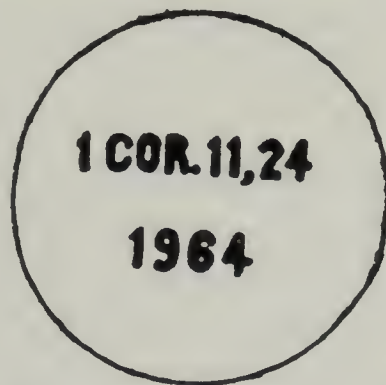
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THE HAWTHORN COMMUNION TOKEN

By W. W. Woodside and R. M. Greig

The Presbyterian Church of Hawthorn, Victoria, which was founded in 1864, commemorated its centennial with special services on 14 June and 16 and 23 August 1964. The centennial communion and the service were a faithful reproduction of the form and



order of worship which were in use a century ago. Church anniversaries are seldom of concern to numismatists, but in this instance there is a special interest quite apart from local or religious significance because

a communion token was struck for the occasion, and distributed in the manner which was customary among Presbyterian congregations of the nineteenth century.

To the majority of modern Presbyterians, such tokens are as strange as the Annand Smith tokens would seem to present-day Melbourne merchants, for their use has been discontinued for many years except in a few congregations which are affiliated with the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia. Thus the Hawthorn piece, in its commemorative nature, is a survival and a revival of a vanishing numismatic series.

The use of tokens as tickets of admission to the communion is very old. Some 400 years ago, John Calvin suggested their use as a device to exclude from this most solemn of Protestant services those whose faith and piety were insufficient to warrant their participation. It seems probable that the custom existed in Scotland even earlier, but at any rate it was in the Scottish congregations that tokens came into universal use. As Scots emigrated to other parts of the world they took with them the custom of using tokens, and in many instances the tokens themselves. Scottish tokens have been catalogued to the number of several thousand varieties, and there also are extensive series originating in Australia, New Zealand, England, Ireland, Canada, the United States and other countries.

It was the Presbyterian custom to distribute the tokens at a preparatory service which was held a day or two before the actual communion observance. At this time, those who intended to receive the communion could be, and often were, examined upon their knowledge of the Ten Commandments, The Apostles'

Creed and the Shorter Catechism, and upon this basis, as well as the individual's week-day behaviour and his reputation in the community, the minister and elders determined his fitness to receive a token. It was also required that a communicant compose any differences he may have had with another member of the congregation. The tokens were distributed at the close of the preparatory service.

At the actual communion service, the Table with the bread and wine was usually set in front of the pulpit, and frequently the Table was enclosed by a low paling fence. As each communicant came to take his place at the Table, he surrendered his token to an elder standing by an opening in the fence.

For its centennial services, the Hawthorn Church followed these old forms, with the exception that communicants were permitted to retain the tokens and to substitute cards.

At the service on 23 August the Bible was borne to the pulpit, followed by the ministers. The congregation sat for the singing of Psalms and were led by a precentor without instrumental accompaniment, but all stood for prayer.

The inclusion of a token in the centennial planning was due chiefly to the efforts of Mr F. Maxwell Bradshaw, M.A., LL.M., who is Clerk of Session at Hawthorn, as well as Convenor of the Historical Records Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and Procurator (i.e., the principal law officer) of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Thus it was particularly appropriate that, at the preparatory service when the Pastor, flanked by the elders, distributed

tokens to the congregation as they filed past, it was Mr Bradshaw who had custody of the bag of tokens and supplied them to the minister.

The token itself was manufactured of a high-copper brass by Bertram Brothers of Collingwood, and 300 examples were struck. The metal is a departure from the usual Scottish custom, the vast majority of tokens being lead or pewter, and its neat appearance contrasts favourably with the earliest pieces, which often were made by a local smith or other artisan. The Hawthorn token is round, measuring 27 mm. in diameter, with plain edge. The obverse has only the name of the Church, while on the reverse, above the date '1964', is '1 Cor. 11, 24'. The Scriptural reference is to the words of Christ in instituting the Last Supper.

In earlier times, when illiteracy and superstition were widespread and ignorance of the tenets of the Church was common, the communion token served a useful function in preserving the dignity and solemnity of the service. In Scotland, the communion was usually celebrated but once a year in a congregation, and it was not uncommon for several years to elapse without an observance. Thus the communion attracted people from a wide area, and special measures were required to maintain its sacred character.

Later years have produced many changes, not only in the general level of popular education but also in the willingness of the churches to welcome to their services any believer, regardless of his reputation or of any examination. The utility of the token has disappeared, leaving those which have survived as reminders of the faith and piety of earlier generations, and of a

tradition which reaches back to the early days of the Reformation. It is unlikely that the custom will be revived, for a tradition, once abandoned, is soon forgotten. Yet we are all indebted to the Hawthorn Church for writing another, and possibly final, chapter to the story, and for adding a new variety to the already extensive Australian series.

SIR JOSEPH BANKS AND COLONIAL CURRENCY

By G. Mackaness, M.A.

This article, of great historical interest to all numismatists, first appeared in the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, Sydney, in 1930.

In the very early years of the colony of New South Wales no banking facilities existed. Rum was the usual currency, but goods of all kinds — flour, meat, vegetables, and articles of clothing — were media of exchange. Coins were in circulation, but they were few in number and of many varieties and mintages. Guineas, johannas and half-johannas, ducats, gold mohurs, pagodas, Spanish dollars, rupees, Dutch guilders and current English coins all jingled together in the pockets of the citizens of Botany Bay. Counterfeiters plied their trade briskly, and contributed to the deflation of the currency.

Most merchants and many private persons issued their own private notes or cards. These were gene-

rally of the value of five shillings, though they ranged as low as threepence. Their worth soon depreciated, so that discounts up to seventy-five per cent were demanded before the notes could be redeemed with sterling. Store receipts, Treasury bills, Paymaster's notes, Commissariat bills, and other forms of paper currency were also in circulation.

At various times small shipments of coins were made by the Home Government, but this relief was only temporary. 'The want of small money experienced here,' so runs a proclamation of 19 November 1800, 'has induced His Majesty to take into his gracious consideration the immediate relief from this great inconvenience.' This was to be done by the issue of copper coins of one ounce weight, to pass current at the value of twopence each. At the same time it was announced that as soon as a sufficient number of new coins was in circulation no private promissory notes would be allowed to circulate.

The evil, however, though palliated, was very far from being remedied. In 1802 we have an interesting example of that barter which was common in the colony, the master of the *Cornwallis* exchanging a quantity of nails and iron for forty-five tons of local coal. In 1805, by public proclamation, debtors were officially permitted to satisfy claims by swine's flesh, without head or feet, at sevenpence per pound, delivered to His Majesty's stores at Sydney, Hawkesbury, or Parramatta.

There was much correspondence between the Governors and the Home authorities on this vexed question of barter and currency. In December 1804 Gov-

ernor King asked Lord Hobart for additional copper coins and for a special new silver coin, since, as he says, 'the fallacy of endeavouring to keep Spanish dollars or any sterling coin in circulation within the colony has long been proved.'

Whether this complaint from King reached Sir Joseph Banks we cannot say, but amongst the Banks' Papers in the Mitchell Library is a manuscript in the handwriting of Banks, dated 10 May 1805, which proves that in this, as in all other branches of colonial affairs, the patron saint was ready with a practical scheme for improvement. The text of the document, which has not hitherto been published, follows:

A PROJECT FOR SUPPLYING H.M. COLONY IN N.S.W. WITH A CIRCULATING MEDIUM

By the representation of those who have lately arrived from New South Wales, it appears that Spirituous Liquors are the real measure of property, and the Notes of Individuals almost the only circulating medium.

Spirit is sold there to the Retailer and to the Consumer who has permission to purchase it wholesale, at about 10s. a Gallon; the same Spirit is retailed by the Licensed Dealers at 20s. a Gallon, and this price may be recovered in the Civil Court on Plea of Debt.

This is, however, only the nominal value of a Gallon of Spirit, as Articles of produce whose actual money price is much higher may always be procured at a cheaper rate by the medium of spirits than by that of Coin or Bills; a sheep rated at the money price of £3

is often purchased for one Gallon of Spirits, and other kinds of produce in a proportion similar or nearly so.

To remedy this very disagreeable state of the Colony two things are necessary: first, to permit a more adequate proportion of spirit supplied to all who wish for it, sufficient to keep the article from rising above its actual money price; and secondly, to supply a circulating medium in money and in Bills adequate to the necessities of the Colony.

The first it is presumed may be done without hazard, if severe and effectual regulations similar to those of the Excise Laws here are enforced there, to prevent all persons except those licensed by Government from vending Spirits on any pretence either in Trade or in Truck; for the second, the Project below is submitted as likely to answer the intended purpose.

The Colony at present possesses no coin but that struck by Mr Boulton, and sent out in 1800; its amount is [gap in MS.], and it consists of Farthings, Half-pence and Pence, each of which is issued at double its English nominal value, which has given an opportunity to the Birmingham coiners to exercise their ingenuity, who have already much increased the amount of these pieces in circulation.

In order to accommodate the Colony properly it is proposed to call in the present copper currency, and re-issue it, first at its English value, next to send out an additional stock of copper coin of the same denominations, thirdly that Tokens representing sixpences, shillings and half-crowns be also struck and issued by the Government here.

As the issue of a circulating medium will in this

case be made for the first time, it will be easy to arrange it on a Decimal Scale, assuming the Farthing as the Monetary unit, and the following set of Tokens will answer this very important purpose:

One piece of	20 farthings or	5d.
One „ of	50 „ or	$1.0\frac{1}{2}$
One „ of	100 „ or	2.1

Ten of these last will be twenty shillings and tenpence, very near a Guinea.

They ought to be struck in Silver, and if Dollar Standard is assumed, they cannot in any shape interfere with the present arrangements of British coin. They ought also to be rather lighter than their real value, sufficiently so to defray the expense of Coinage, but not light enough to tempt the Birmingham Artists to supply the Colony with Counterfeits.

To this should be added the establishment of a Government Bank of Exchange, upon a principle somewhat similar to that of Amsterdam, not for the issue of Bank Notes, as in a Bank of Circulation, but with permission to those who lodge Money with the Bank to draw upon the balance of their account in favour of the Bearer.

Consequently, if A, who has credit for money paid by him into the Bank, owes money to B, he gives to B a note for the amount of his Debt, which B or any holder of it to whom B may have paid it away may bring to the Bank, and have his option either to receive the amount in Tokens or to have it placed to his account in the Bank books, upon which he in his turn will be enabled to draw.

It may be also advisable in order to induce persons to deposit their money in this Bank, to undertake that any person who has a balance on the Bank books at the time of departure of ships for Europe shall be furnished with Bills upon Government in England for the whole or any part of it. This will make it easy for persons who may acquire property there to realise it in England, and consequently keep up in the minds of everyone that love of the Mother Country and that desire of revisiting it which cannot be too much inculcated and cherished in all Colonial Establishments.

The execution of this Plan would at once establish an abundant circulating medium, effectually prevent the depreciation of paper money by restraining the excessive issue of it, check the circulation of the personal Notes of Individuals, soon reduce the Money price of all articles to their natural level, and establish a depository of unquestionable security for monied property, a matter of no small importance in a Colony chiefly peopled by dishonest persons; it would also in due time encourage individuals to open stores for the sale of European Goods at a fair price and relieve (*sic*) Government from the unpleasant necessity of being Retail Traders, which in the present state of things is unavoidable, altho it is productive of many evils to the Colony, from the inferior quality of the Goods purchased by contract, and the high prime cost Government must of necessity pay and which never can be so moderate as the Price which wholesale Traders can always command.

The expense of the Bank of Transfer in Holland is defrayed by a half-yearly payment of a small annual percentage on all Deposits $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., with a small annual payment from everyone who uses the bank, say, 10s. a year, and a reasonable charge for exchange on Bills on Europe would soon, if not immediately, defray all the charges of the Bank.

This proposal Banks probably sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but nothing seems to have come of it. Five years later Macquarie complained to Viscount Castlereagh of the lack of legal currency in the colony, as a result of which people had been forced to issue and receive notes of hand, and that 'this petty banking' had given rise to many varieties of frauds and impositions. He then suggested the establishment of a Government Colonial Bank, to be called 'The New South Wales Loan Bank' and to be constructed as nearly as possible on the Government Loan Bank founded in 1782 by the Dutch East India Company at Cape Town, the plan of which was derived from the famous Bank of Pennsylvania, established early in the eighteenth century.

Like Banks, Macquarie gives full details of his proposal, but his scheme, too, came to naught. It was not till 1817 that the first Australian Bank, the Bank of New South Wales, opened its doors. The issue of its notes was the first distinct signal for the withdrawal of those of the traders, and by 1819 the paper of the Bank of New South Wales had become the principal circulating medium of the colony.

AUSTRALIAN MINTS

Her Majesty's Government have conceded to the Australian Colonies the right of establishing Mints, if they be so minded, on their undertaking to bear the whole cost of these establishments themselves, and on their submitting to certain prescribed conditions as to the quality of the coinage. This, we gather from the following statement, made by Mr Wilson, on behalf of Ministers, in the House of Commons, on the evening of 8 March.

'Mr Wilson said, that with respect to the establishment of Mints in Australia, he thought he might say, the Government had come to the conclusion that it was a question which was more to be determined by the colonies themselves than by this country, and the Government were disposed to afford every facility which the colonies might require for that purpose. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the place where the Mints were to be established, the only part of the Australian colonies which had yet demanded such a convenience, and which had supplied the necessary funds, was Sydney, and from that colony £10,000 had been received, which would be applied immediately to the purpose intended. The Government would then be ready, on the understanding that this country would become liable for no part of the charge incurred, and that the Mints would be placed under such due regulations as might be necessary for the security of the public and for obtaining a proper quality of

coinage, to grant a similar convenience to every part of the Australian Colonies which might be willing to comply with these conditions. (Hear, hear.)'

We have long been of opinion, that no such establishments are necessary, or would, if attempted, be useful, and this view of the matter is increasingly forced upon us by the acknowledged and universally admitted fact, that there is now more coined gold in these Colonies, than we well know what to do with.

However, as everything is to be done by Companies now-a-days, the *Times* of 12 March informs us, that a new company, called the Royal Australian Mint Association, had just issued a prospectus, with a capital of £1,000,000, in shares of 20/- each. The Company propose to supply the colonists, by private enterprise, with the facilities they desire, by the formation of an establishment analogous to that of the Anglo-Mexican Mint, which has been long in profitable operation.

The *Times* remarks, however, that the idea of raising even a nominal capital of 1,000,000*l* for such a purpose, seems unreasonable, since Sir John Herschel has shown that Mints might be established in all the three colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia for about a tenth part of that sum.

Adelaide Times, 13.6.1853

A REMARKABLE BANK-NOTE

It was no 'banking' corporation, but an artist, that issued what was perhaps the most remarkable bank-note ever put out, and this artist was no other than George Cruikshank. The issuance of this note was coincident with the beginning of the last century, at the time when the penalties for crime in England were excessively harsh. About 300 offences were punishable by death, these ranging from murder and theft of a piece of cloth, to the passing of a counterfeit one-pound note.

Hanging was then so common that to witness an execution was among the most popular forms of amusement. All windows that commanded views of Newgate or Tyburn were let at high prices, and parties were made up among people in the country to go and see a hanging.

Now it chanced one day in the year 1818, that George Cruikshank was passing Newgate when a great crowd was gathered before it. His curiosity was excited, and he went forward and saw the execution of several men and women. Horrified at the spectacle, he inquired as to the crimes committed by the malefactors and learned that the women were being hanged for passing counterfeit one-pound notes. He learned, too, that the poor creatures often sinned in ignorance, being the dupes of men who sent them to buy some trifle and return the change.

Cruikshank went home, and moved by pity and shame, sketched a grotesque caricature of a bank-note. He called it a bank restriction note—not to be

imitated. On it he represented a place of execution, with a row of criminals hanging by the neck. The spaces were filled in with halters and manacles. There was a figure of Britannia devouring her children, and around it were transports bearing to Australia the lucky or unlucky ones who had escaped death. In place of the well-known signature of Abraham Newland was that of 'J. Ketch.'

This note was seen by Cruikshank's publisher, Hone, who begged it for publication. Cruikshank etched the note and gave it to Hone, who exhibited it for sale in his window with startling effect. Crowds gathered round and purchased so eagerly that the issue was soon exhausted. Cruikshank was kept hard at work making more etchings, and the crowds grew so great that the street was blocked, and the mayor had to send soldiers to clear it. Hone realised £700 in a few days.

But the effect in other directions was still more startling. The Bank directors were furious. They had met with trouble from the prison reformer, Elizabeth Fry, but they had soon defeated her. Here, however, was an adversary of a different stamp whom they could neither silence nor crush. They held a meeting and stopped the issue of one-pound notes, a measure which had a sensible effect in diminishing the number of hangings in Newgate. Soon afterwards an intelligent public compelled Parliament to make juster laws.

Ardrossan News, 17.12.1911

NUMISMATIC PUBLICATIONS

Published by The Hawthorn Press

- Australian Bank Notes 1817-1963* by G. W. Tomlinson. A descriptive catalogue of the notes of the banks of issue 1817 to 1910, the Commonwealth of Australia 1910 to 1963 and others, together with brief notations. \$5.00
- Coins of the Hapsburg Emperors* by S. R. Mort. \$4.00
- The 'Ingots' and 'Assay Office Pieces' of South Australia* by James Hunt Deacon. \$2.00
- The Australian Coin Catalogue.* Edited by John Gartner, F.R.N.S. \$1.25
- Communion Tokens—The Australian, New Zealand and Miscellaneous Series* by R. M. Greig, Harry Robinson and W. W. Woodside. \$1.75
- The Australian Coin Review.* 25c. (\$3.00 per annum)
- The Australian Coin Album—Halfpenny. \$1.85
- The Australian Coin Album—Penny. \$1.85
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- The Australian Coin Album—Shilling. \$1.85
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- The Australian Coin Album—Decimals. \$1.85

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